

EXHIBIT C

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

COMMISSIONERS: **Lina Khan, Chair
Rebecca Slaughter
Alvaro Bedoya
Melissa Holyoak
Andrew Ferguson**

In the Matter of

The Kroger Company

and

Albertsons Companies, Inc.

Docket No. 9428

**EXPEDITED TREATMENT
REQUESTED**

JOINT MOTION TO DISMISS THE COMPLAINT

Complaint Counsel and Respondents The Kroger Company (“Kroger”) and Albertsons Companies, Inc. (together with Complaint Counsel and Kroger, the “Parties”) jointly move to dismiss the complaint in the above-captioned matter. On December 13, 2024, Respondents’ counsel informed Complaint Counsel that Respondents have each terminated the proposed acquisition. As set forth in Exhibits A and B, Respondents have both withdrawn their Hart-Scott-Rodino Notification and Report Forms filed for the proposed acquisition at issue in the complaint and have no intent to refile. The Parties therefore respectfully request that the Commission dismiss the complaint because it is now moot.

The Parties also respectfully request the Commission’s expedited treatment of this motion, for two reasons. First, the evidentiary hearing in this matter is scheduled to begin 21 days after the final resolution of the related federal preliminary injunction proceeding in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon captioned *Federal Trade Commission, et al. v. Kroger Company and Albertsons Companies*, No 3:24-cv-00347-AN (D. Or.). On

December 10, 2024, the Oregon court granted Complaint Counsel’s preliminary injunction motion to block Respondents’ proposed merger, and since that ruling Respondents have each terminated the underlying merger agreement. The Commission’s prompt action to dismiss the complaint and resolve this matter would thus conserve the Commission’s limited adjudicatory resources and help the Parties avoid unnecessary litigation expenses in this forum.

Second, Kroger has filed a constitutional challenge to the Commission’s administrative proceeding in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio captioned *The Kroger Company v. Federal Trade Commission*, No. 1:24-cv-00438-DRC (S.D. Ohio), in which Kroger seeks to preliminarily enjoin this administrative proceeding before it resumes. During a recent hearing, the Ohio court requested a prompt update after the Oregon court issued its ruling on Complaint Counsel’s preliminary injunction motion. As shown in Exhibit C, on December 11, 2024, the Commission filed a notice in the Ohio court informing it of the Oregon court’s ruling and stating that the Commission “expect[s] to submit a status report jointly with Plaintiffs by December 17, 2024, regarding next steps in this case.” Therefore, the Commission’s prompt action to dismiss the complaint and resolve this matter would likewise free the Ohio court to dismiss the case it is adjudicating as moot, and thereby conserve its judicial resources and help the Parties avoid unnecessary litigation expenses in that forum.

The Parties therefore respectfully request that the Commission dismiss the complaint on an expedited basis. A proposed order is attached.

Dated: December 16, 2024

s/ Barrett J. Anderson
Barrett J. Anderson
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580
Telephone: (202) 326-2237
Email: banderson1@ftc.gov

Counsel Supporting the Complaint

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Mark A. Perry
Mark A. Perry
Luke Sullivan
Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP
2001 M Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: (202) 682-7511
Email: mark.perry@weil.com

Luna Barrington
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
767 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10053
Telephone: (212) 310-8421

Matthew M. Wolf
Sonia K. Pfaffenroth
Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
601 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone: (202) 94-6831

Counsel for The Kroger Company

s/ Enu A. Mainigi
Enu A. Mainigi
Jonathan B. Pitt
Beth A. Stewart
A. Joshua Podoll
Williams & Connolly LLP
680 Maine Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20024
Telephone: (202) 434-5000

Michael G. Cowie
Dechert LLP
1900 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 261-3300
Email: mike.cowie@dechert.com

Counsel for Albertsons Companies, Inc.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

COMMISSIONERS: **Lina Khan, Chair
Rebecca Slaughter
Alvaro Bedoya
Melissa Holyoak
Andrew Ferguson**

In the Matter of

The Kroger Company

and

Albertsons Companies, Inc.

Docket No. 9428

[PROPOSED] ORDER TO DISMISS COMPLAINT

This matter comes before the Commission on Complaint Counsel's and Respondents' Joint Motion to Dismiss Complaint. Having considered the motion, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

The Joint Motion to Dismiss the Complaint, dated December 16, 2024, is **GRANTED** and the complaint is **DISMISSED** without prejudice.

By the Commission.

ORDERED:

April Tabor
Secretary

Date: _____

Exhibit A



Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
801 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
+1 202 383 8000

December 13, 2024

Premier Notification Office
Bureau of Competition
Federal Trade Commission
Constitution Center Building
400 7th St., S.W., 5th Floor, Room 5301
Washington, D.C. 20024
(*premerger@ftc.gov*)

Department of Justice
Antitrust Division
Premier and Division Statistics Unit
450 Fifth Street, N.W.
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20530-0001
(*premerger@usdoj.gov*)

Premier Notification and Report Form: Acquired Person

Transaction File No. 231-0004

Acquisition by The Kroger Company of Albertsons Companies, Inc.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please be advised that our client, Albertsons Companies, Inc., hereby withdraws the above-referenced Notification and Report Form pursuant to 16 C.F.R. § 803.12, effective December 12, 2024.

Please contact me at (202) 383-8135 if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Hassi".

Edward D. Hassi

Exhibit B



Michael B. Bernstein
+1 202.942.5227 Direct
Michael.B.Bernstein@arnoldporter.com

CONFIDENTIAL

December 13, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Premerger Notification Office
Bureau of Competition
Federal Trade Commission
Constitution Center Building
400 7th St., S.W., 5th Floor, Room 5301
Washington, D.C. 20024
(premerger@ftc.gov)

Department of Justice
Antitrust Division
Premerger and Division Statistics Unit
450 Fifth Street, N.W.
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20530-0001
(premerger@usdoj.gov)

Re: Transaction File No. 231-0004 – Acquisition by The Kroger Co. of
Albertsons Companies, Inc.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please be advised that our client, The Kroger Co., hereby withdraws the above-referenced Notification and Report Form pursuant to 16 C.F.R. § 803.12, effective December 12, 2024.

Please contact me at (202) 942-5227 if you have any questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M B B", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael B. Bernstein

Exhibit C

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
CINCINNATI DIVISION**

THE KROGER CO.,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION, *et al.*,

Defendants.

No. 1:24-cv-00438-DRC
Hon. Douglas R. Cole

**NOTICE OF OREGON DISTRICT COURT DECISION
AND WASHINGTON STATE COURT DECISION**

Defendants respectfully provide the Court with notice of the Oregon district court's December 10, 2024 decision preliminarily enjoining The Kroger Company ("Kroger") and Albertsons Companies, Inc. ("Albertsons") from consummating the proposed merger pending the outcome of the administrative proceedings before the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"). *See* Opinion & Order, *FTC v. The Kroger Co.*, No. 3:24-cv-00347-AN (D. Or. Dec. 10, 2024), ECF No. 521 at 71 (attached as Exhibit A).

Defendants also provide the Court with notice of the Washington state court's December 10, 2024 decision permanently enjoining Kroger and Albertsons from consummating the proposed merger. *See* Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, *Washington v. The Kroger Co.*, No. 24-2-00977-9 (King Cty. Sup. Ct. Dec. 10, 2024) at 121 (attached as Exhibit B).

Defendants expect to submit a status report jointly with Plaintiffs by December 17, 2024, regarding next steps in this case.

Dated: December 11, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division

BRIAN D. NETTER
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

CHRISTOPHER R. HALL
Assistant Branch Director

/s/ Cassandra M. Snyder
CASSANDRA SNYDER
Trial Attorney
Department of Justice
Federal Programs Branch
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: (202) 451-7729
Email: cassandra.m.snyder@usdoj.gov

Counsel for Defendants

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on December 16, 2024, I filed the foregoing document electronically using the FTC's E-Filing System, which will send notification of such filing to:

April Tabor
Secretary
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Rm. H-113
Washington, DC 20580
ElectronicFilings@ftc.gov

The Honorable D. Michael Chappell
Administrative Law Judge
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Rm. H-110
Washington, DC 20580

I also certify that I caused the foregoing document to be served via email to as of December 16, 2024:

Michael B. Bernstein
Matthew Wolf
Sonia Pfaffenroth
Joshua Davis
Michael Kientzle
Jason Ewart
Yasmine Harik
Christina Cleveland
Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
601 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone: (202) 942-5227
Email: michael.b.bernstein@arnoldporter.com
Email: matthew.wolf@arnoldporter.com
Email: sonia.pfaffenroth@arnoldporter.com
Email: joshua.davis@arnoldporter.com
Email: michael.kientzle@arnoldporter.com
Email: jason.ewart@arnoldporter.com
Email: yasmine.harik@arnoldporter.com

John Holler
Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
250 West 55th Street
New York, NY 10019
Telephone: (212) 836-7739
Email: john.holler@arnoldporter.com

Mark Perry
Luke Sullivan
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
2001 M Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: (202) 682-7511
Email: mark.perry@weil.com
Email: luke.sullivan@weil.com

Luna Barrington
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
767 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10153
Telephone: (212) 310-8421
Email: luna.barrington@weil.com

Bambo Obaro
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
201 Redwood Shores Parkway
Redwood Shores, CA 94065
Telephone: (650) 802-3083
Email: bambo.obaro@weil.com

Counsel for The Kroger Company

Enu A. Mainigi
Tyler Infinger
Adam J. Podoll
Thomas Ryan
Williams and Connolly LLP
680 Maine Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20024
Telephone: (202) 434-5000
Email: emainigi@wc.com
Email: tinfinger@wc.com
Email: apodoll@wc.com
Email: tryan@wc.com

Edward Hassi
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
801 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
Telephone: (202) 383-8135
Email: thassi@debevoise.com

Michael Schaper
Shannon R. Selden
J. Robert Abraham
Natascha Born
Jaime Freilich-Fried
Tom E. Buckley
Marie Ventimiglia
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
66 Hudson Boulevard
New York, NY 10001
Telephone: (212) 909-6737
Email: mschaper@debevoise.com
Email: srselden@debevoise.com
Email: jrabraham@debevoise.com
Email: nborn@debevoise.com
Email: jmfried@debevoise.com
Email: tebuckley@debevoise.com
Email: msventim@debevoise.com

Mike Cowie
James Fishkin
Dechert LLP
1900 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 261-3339
Email: mike.cowie@dechert.com
Email: james.fishkin@dechert.com

Counsel for Albertsons Companies, Inc.

s/ Barrett J. Anderson
Barrett J. Anderson

Counsel Supporting the Complaint